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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 02650 180154Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /018 W
----------180758Z 053108 /21
R 170955Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4677
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2650

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BG
SUBJECT: FOUR "MAJORS" REINSTATED IN ARMY

REF: DACCA 1147

1. A BRIEF NOTICE APPEARED IN THE PRESS MAY 16 ANNOUNCING THAT FOUR OF THE MAJORS INVOLVED IN THE ASSINATION OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN ON AUGUST 15, 1975, HAVE BEEN GIVEN SERVICE CREDIT FOR THE TIME PRIOR TO THAT DATE WHEN, FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS, THEY HAD NOT BEEN ON ACTIVE DUTY. THE OFFICERS HAD BEEN DISMISSED FROM THE ARMY AT VARIOUS TIMES IN LATE 1973 AND EARLY 1974. THEY WERE REINSTATED IN THE ARMY BY MUSHTAQUE'S GOVERNMENT AS OF AUGUST 15, 1975. THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH DID NOT MENTION THAT THE OFFICERS HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE COUP, STATED SIMPLY THET "THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE TERMINATION OF THEIR SERVICES AND (THEIR) REINSTATEMENT (ON) AUGUST 15, 1975, HAD BEEN CONDUONED." THE REINSTATEMENT WILL ALLOW THE OFFICERS TO RECEIVE CREDIT TOWARD SENIORITY, PENSION AND PROMOTION.
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2. THE OFFICERS, ALL OF WHOM HAD BEEN GIVEN DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS BY ZIA AFTER HE TOOK CONTROL OIN NOVEMBER, 1975, ARE: MAJOR SHARIFUL HUQ "DALIM" (PEKING); MAJOR SULTAN SHAHRIAR RASHID KHAN (TOKYO); MAJOR S.H.M.B. NUR COUDHURY (TEHRAN); AND MAJOR A.M. RASHED COUDHURY (JEDDAH). THE ASSIGNEMENTS HAVE BEEN, IN EFFECT, COMPEN-

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STAED EXILES.

3. COMMENT: THE PRESENT REINSTATEMENT WIPES THEIR SLATES CLEAN FOR THE PERIOD BEFORE THE COUP WHEN THEY WERE ACTUALLY OUT OF THE ARMY. WHY THE DECISION WAS TAKEN NOW AND WHAT EFFECT IT WILL HAVE IS NOT CLEAR. IT MAY BE THAT ZIA HAS MADE THIS DECISION IN ORDER TO PLACATE CERTAIN YOUNG OFFICERS DISGRUNTLED BY FAROOK'S SENTENCING (REFTEL), OR IT MAY BE THAT ZIA INTENDS TO END THEIR STAY IN THE DIPLOMATIC WILDERNESS AND BRING THEM BACK TO ACTIVE DUTY IN THE MILITARY. THE ACTION IS ONE OF SEVERAL STEPS ZIA HAS TAKEN TO TIDY UP LEFT OVER ITEMS ON THE BENGLADESHI SOCIO-POLITICAL SCENE.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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